



SHORTHORN COWS AND CALVES, STRATHALBYN, WEST AUSTRALIA

by the government in parcelling out its areas for settlement. Both countries, again, have dry and wet belts, and in the wet area of the southwestern district of Western Australia may be found the valuable karri and jarrah forests, which are of boundless worth as the means of providing the wood block pavements of innumerable cities throughout the world.

The policy of survey before selection has become the guiding mark by which the West Australian government's course is steered, and therefore the selector finds the land he is to occupy ready surveyed when he seeks his location, in contradistinction to many of the areas of British Columbia, where no man could find his holdings even on the ground, owing to the absence of proper maps. Large tracts of country are thrown open from time to time. After applications have been received (the minister of lands having meanwhile set a value on the lands according to the class of country reported upon by the government surveyors), a land board next appears on the scene, composed of officials of the department of agriculture, and makes a choice of selections after hearing evidence on oath.

They find out whether the men have families, and if they possess any agricultural experience. No man may receive more than 1000 acres, although of course there are sections of the land act which enable the locator to take up his 160 acres just as the pre-emptor does here. But the government takes the view that in a country like Western Australia less than 1000 acres is inadequate, and the advice given is to clear 100 to 200 acres, and fence the remainder. This gives stock a chance to roam at large, the Australian bush being open compared with the British Columbia forest, and possessing many nutritious plants.

Once in on the land, to enable the settler to bridge over the interval between the exhaustion of his capital and the return on his enterprise, a state land bank exists, on the model common in Central Europe, which is allowed to lend money on improvements, ring-barking, fencing, and so on. Crown land is about half the cost of similar land here, and must be paid for in twenty years, by half-yearly payments. By possessing the railway system of the state, save one important line, the government can grant special facilities to land-seekers in the way